REFERENCE TITLE: insurance; use of credit information

State of Arizona House of Representatives Forty-seventh Legislature Second Regular Session 2006

HB 2160

Introduced by Representative Carpenter

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 20-2102 AND 20-2110, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTIONS 20-2123 THROUGH 20-2126; RELATING TO USE OF CREDIT INFORMATION BY INSURANCE INSTITUTIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section. 1. Section 20-2102, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

20-2102. <u>Definitions</u>

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1. "Adverse underwriting decision" means any of the following actions involving insurance coverage which is individually underwritten:
 - (a) A declination of insurance coverage.
 - (b) A termination of insurance coverage.
- (c) Failure of an insurance producer to apply for insurance coverage with a specific insurance institution which the insurance producer represents and which is requested by an applicant.
- (d) In the case of property or casualty insurance coverage, placement by an insurance institution or insurance producer of a risk with a residual market mechanism, an unauthorized insurer or an insurance institution which specializes in substandard risks, or the charging of a higher rate on the basis of information which differs from that which the applicant or policyholder furnished.
- (e) In the case of life, health or disability insurance coverage, an offer to insure at higher than standard rates.
- (f) In the case of property or casualty insurance, assigning an applicant or policyholder to a higher rating tier or failing to apply a premium discount or credit based on any credit related information derived from the applicant's or policyholder's consumer report, insurance score or lack of credit history.
- Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) through (f) of this paragraph, the termination of an individual policy form on a class or statewide basis, a declination of insurance coverage solely because the coverage is not available on a class or statewide basis or the rescission of a policy is not considered an adverse underwriting decision, but the insurance institution or insurance producer responsible for its occurrence shall provide the applicant or policyholder with the specific reasons for its occurrence.
- 2. "Affiliate" or "affiliated" means a person that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries controls, is controlled by or is under common control with another person.
- 3. "Applicant" means any person who seeks to contract for insurance coverage other than a person seeking group insurance that is not individually underwritten.
- 4. "Consumer report" means any written, oral or other communication of information bearing on a natural person's creditworthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics or mode of living and which is used or expected to be used in connection with an insurance transaction.
- 5. "Consumer reporting agency" means any person who does any of the following:

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- (a) Regularly engages, in whole or in part, in the practice of assembling or preparing consumer reports for a monetary fee.
- (b) Obtains information primarily from sources other than insurance institutions.
 - (c) Furnishes consumer reports to other persons.
- 6. "Control", including the terms "controlled by" or "under common control with", means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or nonmanagement services, or otherwise, unless the power is the result of an official position with or corporate office held by the person.
- 7. "CREDIT INFORMATION" MEANS ANY CREDIT RELATED INFORMATION THAT IS DERIVED FROM A CONSUMER REPORT, FOUND ON A CONSUMER REPORT OR PROVIDED ON AN APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL INSURANCE. CREDIT INFORMATION DOES NOT INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT IS NOT CREDIT RELATED REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT IS CONTAINED IN A CONSUMER REPORT OR AN APPLICATION OR IS USED TO CALCULATE AN INSURANCE SCORE.
- 7. 8. "Declination of insurance coverage" means a denial, in whole or in part, by an insurance institution or insurance producer of requested insurance coverage.
 - 8. 9. "Individual" means any natural person who:
- (a) In the case of property or casualty insurance, is a past, present or proposed named insured or certificate holder.
- (b) In the case of life, health or disability insurance, is a past, present or proposed principal insured or certificate holder.
 - (c) Is a past, present or proposed policyowner.
 - (d) Is a past or present applicant.
 - (e) Is a past or present claimant.
- (f) Derived, derives or is proposed to derive insurance coverage under an insurance policy or certificate subject to this chapter.
- 9. 10. "Institutional source" means any person or governmental entity that provides information about an individual to an insurance producer, insurance institution or insurance support organization, other than an insurance producer, the individual who is the subject of the information or a natural person acting in a personal capacity rather than in a business or professional capacity.
- 10. 11. "Insurance institution" means any corporation, association, partnership, reciprocal insurer, inter-insurer, Lloyd's association, fraternal benefit society or other person engaged in the business of insurance, including health care service organizations and hospital, medical, dental and optometric service corporations as defined in this title. Insurance institution does not include insurance producers or insurance support organizations.

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11. 12. "Insurance producer" means an insurance producer as defined in section 20-281 or a managing general agent as defined in section 20-311.

12. 13. "Insurance score" means, for the purpose of insurance underwriting or rating, a designation that is derived by using a variety of data sources, including an individual's consumer report in an algorithm, computer program, model or other process that reduces the data to a number, alpha character or rating that is used for insurance underwriting and rating decisions.

13. 14. "Insurance support organization" means:

- (a) Any person who regularly engages, in whole or in part, in the practice of assembling or collecting information about natural persons for the primary purpose of providing the information to an insurance institution or insurance producer for insurance transactions, including the furnishing of consumer reports or investigative consumer reports to an insurance institution or insurance producer for use in connection with an insurance transaction or the collection of personal information from insurance institutions, insurance producers or other insurance support organizations for the purpose of detecting or preventing fraud, material misrepresentation or material nondisclosure in connection with insurance underwriting or insurance claim activity.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of this paragraph the following persons are not considered insurance support organizations for purposes of this chapter:
 - (i) Insurance producers.
 - (ii) Government institutions.
 - (iii) Insurance institutions.
 - (iv) Medical care institutions.
 - (v) Medical professionals.
- 14. 15. "Insurance transaction" means any transaction involving insurance primarily for personal, family or household needs rather than business or professional needs and which entails the determination of an individual's eligibility for an insurance coverage, benefit or payment or the servicing of an insurance application, policy, contract or certificate.
- 15. 16. "Investigative consumer report" means a consumer report or portion of a consumer report in which information about a natural person's character, general reputation, personal characteristics or mode of living is obtained through personal interviews with the person's neighbors, friends, associates, acquaintances or others who may have knowledge concerning those items of information.
- 16. 17. "Medical care institution" means any facility or institution that is licensed to provide health care services to natural persons including:
 - (a) Health care service organizations.
 - (b) Home health agencies.
 - (c) Hospitals.

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- (d) Medical clinics.
- (e) Public health agencies.
- (f) Rehabilitation agencies.
- (g) Skilled nursing facilities.
- 17. 18. "Medical professional" means any person licensed or certified to provide health care services to natural persons, including a chiropractor, clinical dietitian, clinical psychologist, dentist, nurse, occupational therapist, optometrist, pharmacist, physical therapist, physician, podiatrist, psychiatric social worker or speech therapist.
- $18.\,$ 19. "Medical record information" means personal information which relates to an individual's physical or mental condition, medical history or medical treatment and is obtained from a medical professional or medical care institution, the individual or the individual's spouse, parent or legal guardian.
- 19. 20. "Personal information" means any individually identifiable information gathered in connection with an insurance transaction and from which judgments can be made about an individual's character, habits, avocations, finances, occupation, general reputation, credit, health or any other personal characteristics. Personal information includes an individual's name and address and medical record information but does not include privileged information.
- 21. "PERSONAL INSURANCE" MEANS PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE, HOMEOWNERS, MOTORCYCLE, MOBILE HOME OWNERS AND NONCOMMERCIAL DWELLING FIRE INSURANCE POLICIES THAT ARE INDIVIDUALLY UNDERWRITTEN FOR PERSONAL, FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD USE.
 - 20. "Policyholder" means any person who:
- (a) In the case of individual property or casualty insurance, is a present named insured.
- (b) In the case of individual life, health or disability insurance, is a present policyowner.
- (c) In the case of group insurance which is individually underwritten, is a present group certificate holder.
- $\frac{21}{1}$. 23. "Pretext interview" means an interview in which a person, in an attempt to obtain information about a natural person, performs one or more of the following acts:
 - (a) Pretends to be someone he or she THE PERSON is not.
- (b) Pretends to represent a person $\frac{\text{he or she}}{\text{he or she}}$ THE PERSON is not in fact representing.
 - (c) Misrepresents the true purpose of the interview.
- (d) Refuses to $\frac{\text{identify himself or herself upon}}{\text{IDENTITY ON request.}}$ PROVIDE PROOF OF
- 22. 24. "Privileged information" means any individually identifiable information that relates to a claim for insurance benefits or a civil or criminal proceeding involving an individual and is collected in connection with or in reasonable anticipation of a claim for insurance benefits or a

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civil or criminal proceeding involving an individual, except that information otherwise meeting the requirements of this paragraph is considered personal information under this chapter if it is disclosed in violation of section 20-2113.

- 23. 25. "Residual market mechanism" means an agreement for the equitable apportionment among insurers of insurance afforded applicants who are in good faith entitled to but who are unable to procure insurance through ordinary methods.
- 24. 26. "Termination of insurance coverage" or "termination of an insurance policy" means either a cancellation or nonrenewal of an insurance policy, in whole or in part, for any reason other than the failure to pay a premium as required by the policy.
- $\frac{25}{100}$. "Unauthorized insurer" means an insurance institution that has not been granted a certificate of authority by the director to transact insurance in this state.
 - Sec. 2. Section 20-2110, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 20-2110. Reasons for adverse underwriting decisions
- A. In the event of an adverse underwriting decision the insurance institution or insurance producer responsible for the decision shall either provide the applicant, policyholder or individual proposed for coverage with the specific reason for the adverse underwriting decision in writing or advise the person, in writing, that upon written request the person may receive the specific reason in writing and provide the applicant, policyholder or individual proposed for coverage with a summary of the rights established under subsection B of this section and sections 20-2108 and 20-2109.
- B. Upon receipt of a written request within ninety business days from the date of the mailing of notice or other communication of an adverse underwriting decision to an applicant, policyholder or individual proposed for coverage, the insurance institution or insurance producer shall furnish to the person within twenty-one business days from the date of receipt of the written request:
- 1. The specific reason for the adverse underwriting decision, in writing, if the information was not initially furnished in writing pursuant to subsection A of this section.
- 2. The specific items of personal and privileged information that support those reasons except that:
- (a) The insurance institution or insurance producer is not required to furnish specific items of privileged information if it has a reasonable suspicion, based upon specific information available for review by the director, that the applicant, policyholder or individual proposed for coverage has engaged in criminal activity, fraud, material misrepresentation or material nondisclosure.
- (b) Specific items of medical record information supplied by a medical care institution or medical professional shall be disclosed either directly

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to the individual about whom the information relates or to a medical professional designated by the individual and licensed to provide medical care with respect to the condition to which the information relates, at the option of the insurance institution or insurance producer.

- 3. The names and addresses of the institutional sources that supplied the specific items of information pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subsection, except that the identity of any medical professional or medical care institution shall be disclosed either directly to the individual or to the designated medical professional, whichever the insurance institution or insurance producer prefers.
- C. The obligations imposed by this section upon an insurance institution or insurance producer may be satisfied by another insurance institution or insurance producer authorized to act on its behalf.
- D. If an adverse underwriting decision results solely from an oral request or inquiry, the explanation of the specific reasons and summary of rights required by subsection A of this section may be given orally.
- E. In providing the specific reason for an adverse underwriting decision based on credit related information contained or not contained in an individual's consumer report, the insurance institution or agent shall provide at least the following information:
- 1. That the decision was based in part on a consumer report or the absence of credit history.
- 2. The source of the consumer report and how the individual may obtain a copy of the consumer report.
- 3. A description of up to four factors that were the primary cause for the adverse action that resulted from the insurance score.
- F. An insurer shall not use the following types of credit history to calculate an insurance score to determine property or casualty premiums for insurance transactions that are subject to this article and shall not knowingly use an insurance score developed by a third party if the score is calculated using any of the following types of credit history:
- 1. The absence of credit history or the inability to determine the consumer's credit history unless the insurer's action is actuarially justified or the insurer treats the consumer as if the consumer had neutral credit information, as defined by the insurer.
- 2. Credit history or an insurance score based on collection accounts identified with a medical industry code.
- 3. A bankruptcy or a lien satisfaction that is more than seven years old.
- 4. The consumer's use of a particular type of credit card, charge card or debit card unless actuarially justified.
- 5. The consumer's total available line of credit, except that an insurer may consider the total amount of outstanding debt in relation to the total available line of credit.

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- 6. An insurance score that is calculated using the income, gender, address, zip code, ethnic group, religion, marital status or nationality of the consumer as a factor. This section PARAGRAPH does not prohibit an insurer from using zip code, address, gender and marital status information for underwriting purposes.
- Sec. 3. Title 20, chapter 11, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding sections 20-2123 through 20-2126, to read:
 - 20-2123 Use of credit information
- A. AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION THAT USES CREDIT INFORMATION TO UNDERWRITE OR RATE RISKS SHALL NOT:
- 1. DENY, CANCEL OR NONRENEW A POLICY OF PERSONAL INSURANCE SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF CREDIT INFORMATION WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER APPLICABLE UNDERWRITING FACTOR INDEPENDENT OF CREDIT INFORMATION AND NOT EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED BY SECTION 20-2110, SUBSECTION F.
- 2. BASE AN INDIVIDUAL'S RENEWAL RATE FOR PERSONAL INSURANCE SOLELY ON CREDIT INFORMATION WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER APPLICABLE FACTOR INDEPENDENT OF CREDIT INFORMATION.
- 3. TAKE AN ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL BASED ON CREDIT INFORMATION UNLESS THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION OBTAINS AND USES A CONSUMER REPORT THAT IS ISSUED OR AN INSURANCE SCORE THAT IS CALCULATED WITHIN NINETY DAYS FROM THE DATE THE POLICY IS FIRST WRITTEN OR A RENEWAL IS ISSUED.
- 4. USE THE FOLLOWING AS A NEGATIVE FACTOR IN ANY INSURANCE SCORING METHODOLOGY OR IN REVIEWING CREDIT INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERWRITING OR RATING A POLICY OF PERSONAL INSURANCE:
- (a) CREDIT INQUIRIES NOT INITIATED BY THE INDIVIDUAL OR INQUIRIES REQUESTED BY THE INDIVIDUAL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL'S OWN CREDIT INFORMATION.
- (b) INQUIRES RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE IF SO IDENTIFIED ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S CONSUMER REPORT.
- (c) COLLECTION ACCOUNTS WITH A MEDICAL INDUSTRY CODE IF SO IDENTIFIED ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S CONSUMER REPORT.
- (d) MULTIPLE LENDER INQUIRIES, IF CODED BY THE CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S CONSUMER REPORT AS BEING FROM THE HOME MORTGAGE INDUSTRY AND MADE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF ONE ANOTHER, UNLESS ONLY ONE INQUIRY IS CONSIDERED.
- (e) MULTIPLE LENDER INQUIRIES, IF CODED BY THE CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S CONSUMER REPORT AS BEING FROM THE AUTOMOBILE LENDING INDUSTRY AND MADE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF ONE ANOTHER, UNLESS ONLY ONE INQUIRY IS CONSIDERED.
- B. AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION THAT USES CREDIT INFORMATION TO UNDERWRITE OR RATE RISKS SHALL NOT USE CREDIT INFORMATION UNLESS NOT LATER THAN EVERY THIRTY-SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE LAST TIME THAT THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION OBTAINED CURRENT CREDIT INFORMATION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION RECALCULATES THE INSURANCE SCORE OR OBTAINS AN UPDATED CONSUMER REPORT. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS SUBSECTION:

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- 1. AT ANNUAL RENEWAL, ON THE REQUEST OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR THE INDIVIDUAL'S INSURANCE PRODUCER, THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION SHALL REUNDERWRITE AND RERATE THE POLICY BASED ON A CURRENT CONSUMER REPORT OR INSURANCE SCORE. AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION IS NOT REQUIRED TO RECALCULATE THE INSURANCE SCORE OR OBTAIN THE UPDATED CONSUMER REPORT OF AN INDIVIDUAL MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE IN A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD.
- 2. THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION MAY OBTAIN CURRENT CREDIT INFORMATION ON ANY RENEWAL BEFORE THE THIRTY-SIX MONTHS IF THIS PROCEDURE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION'S UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES.
- 3. AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION IS NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN CURRENT CREDIT INFORMATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:
- (a) THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION IS TREATING THE INDIVIDUAL AS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR.
- (b) THE INDIVIDUAL IS IN THE MOST FAVORABLY PRICED TIER OF THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION WITHIN A GROUP OF AFFILIATED INSURERS, EXCEPT THAT THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION MAY ORDER THE REPORT IF THIS PROCEDURE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION'S UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES.
- (c) CREDIT WAS NOT USED FOR UNDERWRITING OR RATING THE INDIVIDUAL WHEN THE POLICY WAS INITIALLY WRITTEN, EXCEPT THAT THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION MAY USE CREDIT FOR UNDERWRITING OR RATING THE INDIVIDUAL ON RENEWAL IF THIS PROCEDURE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION'S UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES.
- (d) THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION REEVALUATES THE INDIVIDUAL BEGINNING NO LATER THAN THIRTY-SIX MONTHS AFTER INCEPTION AND BASED ON OTHER UNDERWRITING OR RATING FACTORS, EXCLUDING CREDIT INFORMATION.

20-2124. <u>Dispute resolution and error correction</u>

IF IT IS DETERMINED THROUGH THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS PRESCRIBED IN THE FEDERAL FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT (15 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 1681 i(a)(5)) THAT THE CREDIT INFORMATION OF A CURRENT INDIVIDUAL WAS INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE AND IF THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION RECEIVES NOTICE OF THE DETERMINATION FROM EITHER THE CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY OR FROM THE INDIVIDUAL, THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION SHALL REUNDERWRITE AND RERATE THE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF RECEIVING THE NOTICE. AFTER REUNDERWRITING OR RERATING THE INDIVIDUAL, THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION SHALL MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH ITS UNDERWRITING AND RATING GUIDELINES. IF AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION DETERMINES THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS OVERPAID A PREMIUM, THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION SHALL REFUND TO THE INDIVIDUAL THE AMOUNT OF OVERPAYMENT THAT IS CALCULATED BACK TO THE SHORTER OF EITHER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS OF COVERAGE OR THE ACTUAL POLICY PERIOD.

20-2125. Filing of insurance score methodology; trade secret

A. AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION THAT USES AN INSURANCE SCORE TO UNDERWRITE AND RATE RISKS SHALL FILE THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION'S SCORING MODEL OR OTHER SCORING PROCESSES WITH THE DEPARTMENT. AN INSURANCE SUPPORT ORGANIZATION MAY FILE SCORING MODELS ON BEHALF OF INSURANCE INSTITUTIONS. A FILING THAT

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INCLUDES INSURANCE SCORING MAY INCLUDE LOSS EXPERIENCE JUSTIFYING THE USE OF CREDIT INFORMATION.

B. ANY FILING RELATING TO CREDIT INFORMATION IS CONSIDERED A TRADE SECRET UNDER APPLICABLE LAW.

20-2126. Indemnification

AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD INSURANCE PRODUCERS HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ALL LIABILITY, FEES AND COSTS THAT ARISE OUT OF OR RELATING TO THE ACTIONS, ERRORS OR OMISSIONS OF AN INSURANCE PRODUCER WHO OBTAINS OR USES CREDIT INFORMATION OR INSURANCE SCORES FOR AN INSURANCE INSTITUTION, IF THE INSURANCE PRODUCER FOLLOWS THE INSTRUCTIONS OF OR PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE INSURANCE INSTITUTION AND COMPLIES WITH ANY APPLICABLE LAW OR REGULATION. THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROVIDE AN INDIVIDUAL OR OTHER INSURED WITH A CAUSE OF ACTION THAT DOES NOT EXIST IN THE ABSENCE OF THIS SECTION.

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